

September 16, 1999

5152 '99 SEP 22 P142

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Numbers: **98N-1230**
96P-0418
97P-0197

Ban Forced Molting of HENS

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is **encouraging** to hear you are requesting public comments on reducing egg borne diseases due to the many illnesses and deaths caused by contaminated eggs. Therefore, we consider the above-referenced Dockets to be of great importance.

We would like to offer the following important suggestions that the FDA should, and must do:

- Ban the forced molting of laying hens because forced **molting** is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs;
- b Prohibit the practice of forced molting because forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems;
- b Enforce the banning of farm practices, such as **forced** molting, that not only is unduly cruel and extremely stressful to the hen, but also presents a health problem to human health;

Forced **molting**, (which intentionally deprives hens of both food and water for up to 14 days) forces millions of hens to manipulate egg production. **This practice is** extremely cruel. Upon learning of this barbaric practice, we have not, nor intend to buy eggs until this greedy matter is resolved.

Since the FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced **molting** this petition should be granted without further delay.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our, hopefully, helpful and decisive opinions.

Respectfully submitted,

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4973 Young Drive
Pittsburgh, PA, 15227

97P-0197

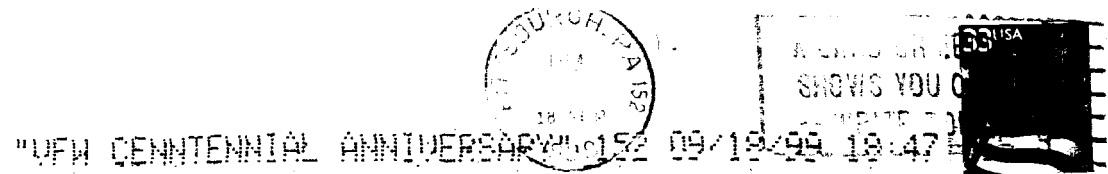
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C681

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C682
96P-0418/C681